

336 VICTIM AND WITNESS ASSISTANCE

336.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that crime victims and witnesses receive appropriate assistance, that they are provided with information from government and private resources and that the agency meets all related legal mandates.

336.2 POLICY

The Columbia Police Department is committed to providing guidance and assistance to the victims and witnesses of crime. The members of the Columbia Police Department will show compassion and understanding for victims and witnesses and will make reasonable efforts to provide the support and information identified in this policy.

336.4 CRIME VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

Officers should provide all victims and witnesses with the applicable victim information handouts.

Officers should never guarantee a victim's safety from future harm but may make practical safety suggestions to victims expressing fear of future harm or retaliation. Officers should never guarantee a person qualifies as a victim for purpose of compensation or restitution, but may direct him/her to the proper written department material or available victim resources.